on obtaining primary and collateral security?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The nature and value of security obtained by banks depends on the amount of loan, nature of activity of the borrower credit-worthiness and track record of borrowers, viability of the proposal and the element of business risk involved etc. within the overall policy approved by the Board. However, in order to instill greater accountability and making the managements to conduct the business on sound and healthy principles, banks may, in their discretion, obtain guarantees from Directors (excluding nominee Directors) and other management personnel in their individual capacities, when considered necessary.

(d) Compliance with the guidelines/instructions issued by RBI is, inter alia, looked into during the course of inspection of banks by the Department of supervision of the RBI.

Policy towards the Electronic and Print Media

404. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government towards Electronic and Print Media;

(b) how far this policy commensurates with the various judicial pronouncements including the one by Supreme Court ruling for Open Sky Policy;

(c) whether in view of the above pronouncements Government propose to bring any amendments to the policy of Print and Electronic Media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) Regarding Electronic Media, the Government is considering to bring a comprehensive legislation on Broadcasting. Relevant judicial pronouncements on the subject, including the ones by Supreme Court will be taken into consideration while finalising the Bill.

As far as domestic print media is concerned, the press is free from Government's control and functions independently. The entry of foreign print media in the country is however, regulated by a Cabinet Resolution of 1955 which prohibits:—

(i) Publication of foreign owned newspapers and periodicals in the country.

(ii) Publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

The Government continues to be guided by this policy which has neither been changed nor rescinded.

Response to massive health check up programme in July, 1996

405. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken up the massive health check-up programme in July, 1996 or thereafter as planned;

(b) if so, the reasons thereto and the outcome thereof;

(c) if not, what is the reason for its postponement; and

(d) what follow up action is being taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A Special School Health Check-up Scheme for the students of Primary Classes has been implemented in the country from 22—27th July, 1996. The states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Meghalaya post-

poned the scheme due to monsoons, foolds and vacations in primary schools in some states during the period. These States implemented the scheme during August to October, 1996.

Reports received from 441 districts show that 75.9% schools were covered and 84.91% of the enrolled children were examined for common ailments which included anaemia, worm infestations, night blindness, iodine deficiency disease (goitre), ear discharge, scabies, pyderma, vision defects and dental problems. Statements giving state-wise coverage and break up of number of children examined and found to be suffering from different ailments are attached at annexure.

[*See Appendix 179, Annexure No. 11*]

(d) States/UTs have been advised to give referral cards to the children suffering from various ailments for detailed check up and treatment at Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals. The Professional Bodies like Indian Medical Association, Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Indian Opthalmic Association, Indian Dental Association and National Society for Prevention of Blindness have also been involved for taking care of referrals.

Functioning of Mahila Swasthya Sangha

406. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many members of the Mahila Swasthya Sangha had assembled in Gwalior on the occasion of the World Population Day;

(b) whether any oath was taken by them; if so, details thereof;

(c) what follow up action is being taken to see that the oath takers are provided with the voluntary work for which they have taken oath;

(d) whether it is a fact that after taking the oath, nothing is being done by them in the area of population growth control; and

(e) measures to tackle this problem by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) On the occasion of the World Population Day, 1995 a Central level function was organised at Gwalior in which about 1500 members of Mahila Swasthya Sangha Participated. In 1996 the function was organised at Delhi and representatives of women's income generation groups, Primary School teachers and Gram Pradhans participated.

(b) The oath taken by MSS in 1995 is at Statement-I Oath taken in 1996 is at statement II. (*See* below)

(c) Women's groups and MSS have been entrusted with Family Welfare inter personal communication among the community as a regular activity.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Statement-I

World Population Day

PLEDGE

(As administered in 1995)

We, the Members of Mahila Swasthya Sangh, Pledge to spread the message of small family norm, right age of motherhood and adoption of family welfare methods for ensuring spacing between two children for better health of mothers and children in our villages and promoting the cause of the Girl Child.

We, the Members of Mahila Swasthya Sangh also pledge to work for the upliftment of status of women in our villages by promoting education of Girl Child, Employment opportunities for women and community participation in village development.